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## News Notes

**Boat Launch closed** — The Hickam Harbor Boat Launch will be closed on July 4 from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. due to the set-up and display of the fireworks display. The launch along with Foster Point/Harbor parking lot and a portion of the HIANG parking lot will be closed. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

**Appointments for Family Day acute care clinic** — The 15 MDG will conduct an Acute Care Clinic from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday July 6. Appointments are required so call 448-6000 to schedule; the appointment line opens at 8 a.m. Contact Melissa Miller at 449-2068 or [Melissa.Miller@Hickam.af.mil](mailto:Melissa.Miller@Hickam.af.mil). Open to all Hickam AFB beneficiaries.

**Changes to e-mail** — Starting on July 4, NIPRNet and SIPRNet e-mails in the Deleted Items folder will be purged automatically after 14 days. This new policy will lay the foundation for ADX (Active Directory/Exchange) migration, standardize mailbox settings, save disk space, and decrease server errors. After the deleted e-mails are purged, users will have an additional 7 days to recover any deleted e-mails. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Comm Focal Point via e-mail or at 449-8984.

**Housing Town Hall** — This is scheduled July 8 at 6 p.m. at HCH Community Center for residents residing at: 202 3rd St. through 214 3rd St., 201 4th St. through 213 4th St., 201 5th St., 302 Beard Ave, 304 Beard Ave, 402 Boquet Blvd, 301 Signer Blvd through 403 Signer Blvd. Construction update, relocation process, move-out requirements will be addressed. Call 423-2300 for more information.

**Pianist for Missoula**  
Childrens Theatre: The Makai Recreation Center is looking for a pianist to play the piano for Missoula Children's Theatre, July 20-25. This year's production is "Wizard of Oz" which will be performed on July 25, 1-3 p.m. at the Base Theater. If interested, please contact Darlene Johnson or Angela Villanueva at the MRC 449-3354.

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Courtesy photo

Gen. Howie Chandler, Pacific Air Forces Commander, and Col. Giovanni Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing Commander, flank Hawaii civic leaders in Guam during the June 22-26 Pacific Air Forces Civic Leader Trip.

## Civic leaders visit 'Strategic Triangle'

by **Capt. Kristy Pate**  
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Gen. Howie Chandler, Pacific Air Forces commander, hosted 24 Civic Leaders from Hawaii, Alaska and Guam for a tour of the Pacific's "Strategic Triangle" bases June 22-26.

The trip, originating from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, was the first of its kind for Pacific

Air Forces and involved stops at Elmendorf and Eielson Air Force Bases in Alaska and Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

Civic leaders from each location were invited to tour these bases, learn about the various missions and gain knowledge of the importance of the Air Force's forward-most PACAF bases on American soil that make up the Strategic Triangle.

Hickam AFB's 535th Airlift Squadron flew the civic leaders on a C-17 Globemaster III throughout

the trip, first stopping at Elmendorf AFB, where the general and civic leaders toured the 3rd Wing's Air Traffic Control tower and Combat Alert Cell amidst massive Exercise Northern Edge aircraft launches. The ongoing exercise showcased the wing's unique and diverse flying mission, which includes five different types of aircraft.

"Getting to see Airmen and the Air Force mission first hand was really a thrill. I wish all Americans could get the same inside view of the

See **CIVIC LEADERS**, A6

## Navy's Hickam re-enlists at Hickam AFB

by **Hickam Kukini staff**

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — 15th Airlift Wing Headquarters had a "joint basing" moment on Tuesday.

That's when shipmates of U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jarrod Albert Hickam witnessed 15th Airlift Wing commander Col. Giovanni Tuck re-enlist the great-great grandnephew of Lt. Col. Horace Hickam for another six years in the Navy.

Col. Tuck called it an "honor" to re-enlist the direct relative of the base's namesake. Petty Officer Hickam presented Col. Tuck with his own coin, to commemorate the event.

Petty Officer Hickam is assigned to the USS Buffalo. He is one of three first classes leading the ship's Auxiliary Division and also serves as the ship's assistant quality assurance officer.

See next week's issue as Colonel Tuck talks about other highlights from his first year as base commander.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Col. Giovanni Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing Commander, re-enlists U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jarrod Albert Hickam, great-great grandnephew of Lt. Col. Horace Hickam, at 15th Airlift Wing Headquarters on Tuesday.

## Airmen head off to 'battle'

Airman 1st Class Chris Tamblyn, 25th Air Support Operations Squadron Tactical Air Control Party, 'evacuates' a fellow 25th ASOS Airman to an Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook on Wheeler Army Air Field's East Range June 24. Hickam AFB TACPs were trained by 25th Infantry Division Headquarters, Headquarters Company 114th Infantry Soldiers June 23-26. Army servicemembers provided training by not only instructing but also acting as an opposing force to provide a realistic environment for Joint Terminal Attack Controllers in training. See pages A4-A5 for stories on 25th ASOS and OPFOR activities.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss



# From COMPACAF: We are guardians of freedom

by Gen. Howie Chandler  
Pacific Air Forces commander

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Two hundred and thirty-three years ago, our founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence.

They were farmers, bankers, merchants and inventors — men from all walks of life who had a common goal to stand against oppression and tyranny. They risked their lives by declaring all



Gen. Howie Chandler

people have certain “unalienable rights ... life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

It is their legacy that reminds us freedom requires sacrifice. The examples of American commitment and bloodshed from

Lexington and Valley Forge, through two centuries to Iraq and Afghanistan, bear witness to this.

Our liberty remains secure because of today’s heroes and heroes from the past. We must also remember that with freedom comes responsibility. Just as our forefathers fought and sacrificed to uphold liberty and the right of self-determination, today we play a key role in protecting freedom at home and around the world.

As our Airman’s Creed states, we are indeed the “guardians of freedom and justice.” We stand ready to protect our hard-won liberty and the rights of others. That can take the form of supporting the rights of freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq or providing humanitarian assistance in Indonesia, China, or Burma.

This Independence Day, I encourage you to focus on the freedom we enjoy and take pride in

your role as a member of our Air Force team — military, civilians, contractors and family members — helping uphold these unalienable rights. Please remember our Wingmen who have made the ultimate sacrifice as well as those deployed and their families.

Eva-Marie and I thank you for all you do as part of the greatest Air Force in the world and we wish you a safe and happy Independence Day.

## DIAMOND TIPS

**Question:** You are riding your bicycle, and you come to a cross walk. What should you do?

**Answer:** You are required to dismount, and walk your bicycle across the intersection and crosswalk. (According to AFI 91-207, PACAF Supp)



**Question:** You are out riding your skateboard around the neighborhood. What personal protective equipment should you be wearing?

**Answer:** As a minimum, you are required to wear an approved safety helmet. This includes activities involving bicycles, roller blades, scooters, and rip sticks. You are also required to wear your helmet correctly. Loose, unbuckled, and poorly fitting helmets provide little to no protection. (According to AFI 91-207, PACAF Supp)

It is everyone’s responsibility to follow safety rules. If you are found in violation of safety rules, you may be penalized. Sponsors, remember that you are responsible for the actions of your dependents. You may face penalties for your dependents not following the rules. Penalties for violators may include military action, citations, curfew, probation, and even community service.

Protect yourselves and follow the safety rules. They are put in place to protect you!

Questions? Contact your First Sergeant!



Photo by Lee Webber

## Getting a bird’s eye view

Col. Andrew Hockman flies the final leg of the 2009 Pacific Air Forces Civic Leaders Trip on Friday, June 26. The special trip also served as Col. Hockman’s ‘fini flight’ as 15 Operations Group commander as he relinquished command on Tuesday. See related story on top of page A1 about the PACAF tour.

## Paying tribute to a leader’s legacy

**Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Neil McGillicuddy**  
89th Communications Squadron flight superintendent

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (AFNS) — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley has just retired from active duty. What better time than now to reflect on the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force’s tenure as our top enlisted leader?

Chief McKinley will be the first person to tell you that he’s not interested in legacy talk. This was seen in his recent remarks at the 2008 Airlift Tankers Association meeting when he said, “I don’t care about any legacy. I just care about taking care of Airmen.” In that statement is the legacy of Chief McKinley: taking care of Airmen.

Collectively looking back over his time as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force, his achievements

include speaking at the dedication of the Air Force Memorial, establishing the Enlisted Heroes Walk at Basic Military Training, advocating changes to feedback and performance report forms, championing the Airman’s Creed and fitness, expanding the attendance at the Senior Enlisted Leaders Conference, being a key voice in the anti-tobacco campaign, staunchly supporting the wounded warrior program and travelling the world as our spokesman, advocate and leader.

Of course, Chief McKinley has been a part of much more than these few achievements. In my opinion, all of these overshadow what I consider to be his greatest accomplishment, which is the leadership he provided to all of the Airmen when the top tier of the Air Force command structure faced a complete makeover in June 2008.

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force position is one of the three legs of the

Air Force leadership tripod. Each leg depends on the other for balance. Imagine the shock when two of those legs disappeared. The one left standing must immediately find the strength and agility to stay calmly focused in supporting the sudden load placed upon it.

This is where Chief McKinley found himself in June 2008. The eyes of not just the enlisted force, but the entire Air Force were upon him.

Would he succumb to the pressure? Would he resign the position? Could he lead the transition as the new Air Force leadership came aboard? All of these demands were placed upon the shoulders of an enlisted leader. This was historic and had no real precedent.

Chief McKinley did what more than 30 years of experience and Airmanship had prepared him for: he led. One of the cornerstones of his leadership was the promise of getting back to basics, which was outlined in

arguably his most important enlisted perspective theme: “Blocking and Tackling.”

Here we are, almost a year to the day that the changes in the top tier occurred. We have shifted priorities, taken on new challenges and are still fighting two wars in different parts of the world. Historians will look back at the events and dissect, analyze and conclude. From this historic perspective comes the remarkable legacy of Chief McKinley.

When faced with one of the biggest challenges to ever confront an Air Force enlisted leader, he succeeded in the face of overwhelming obstacles and set new benchmarks for not only his office, but also all enlisted leaders as well. Why? How? A simple answer to those who know the chief: he takes care of Airmen. His legacy and a commitment to leadership excellence is something we can all take part in and be proud of.

Thank you Chief McKinley!

## Hickam Kukini

**The editorial deadline is the FRIDAY PRIOR to Friday publications. Prior coordination is MANDATORY. Articles and announcements must have complete information, bylines, credits and contact information.**

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**Kukini:** Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

## Wings Over the Pacific spotlight: Remembering the legacy of Pacific Air Forces

by Maj. Kimberly Grover  
Air Force Ball Committee President

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — During this year’s Air Force Ball Sept. 19, 2009, in addition to celebrating the Air Force, we will also celebrate the creation of Pacific Air Forces and Air Force accomplishments in the Pacific. Our heritage began like this:

During the latter part of World War II and afterwards, Far East Air Forces (FEAF) in Japan was the primary Air Force command in the Pacific, and it was the air component of the Far East



Gen. Laurence Kuter

Its purpose was to function primarily as the Air Force staff component and planning element of U.S. Pacific Command.

On July 1, 1956, Headquarters FEAF (Rear) was established and

Command.

“Pacific Air Force” was activated July 1, 1954, at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, under the command of Maj. Gen. Sory Smith.

The unit was assigned to FEAF.

Pacific Air Force was simultaneously redesignated Pacific Air Force/FEAF (Rear). General Smith continued as commander of the organization and also became Far East Air Forces deputy commander.

FEAF headquarters moved from Japan to Hawaii July 1, 1957, and was redesignated Pacific Air Forces. Gen. Laurence Kuter, FEAF commander, assumed command of PACAF.

Pacific Air Force/FEAF (Rear) was inactivated, and General Smith was subsequently appointed as the 4th Air Force commander at Hamilton AFB, Calif.

# Cell phone ban now in effect

by Hickam Kukini staff

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Drivers may still need reminders about cell phone usage both on-post and off. Beginning July 1, motorists on the island of Oahu may be cited for operating a motor vehicle while using a mobile electronic device — unless they use a hands-free system. There is a \$67 fine for the first offense.

Hickam AFB already had a similar cell phone use restriction while driving on post. Pearl Harbor Naval Station goes even further — as talking on the phone even with a headset is not allowed. Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam is expected to have the same rules as PHNS.

According to the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), the law’s purpose is to make Honolulu roadways safer for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. Cellular phones can still be used for emergency 911 calls off base.

There will be no special enforcement campaign. HPD will issue violations as they view them, according to officials. There is no grace period.

Furthermore, the City and County of Honolulu law restricts texting and phone calls while stopped in traffic.

Other restricted mobile electronic devices include pagers, personal digital assistants, laptop computers, video games and digital photographic devices. The law also applies to out-of-state drivers. Passengers are not affected by the city’s law, only the driver.

Contact Tech. Sgt. Aaron Leshner, 15th SFS, at 449-1006 for information about driving and the use of cell phones.



Photo by Jay Parco

**At Hickam Air Force Base, drivers should know better than to drive while talking on a cell phone or be stopped by Security Forces. As of July 1 while driving Oahu’s roads, drivers are not allowed to talk on phones without a hands-free system.**

## Crime Scene

### Theft of unsecured personal property

An Active Duty E-6 assigned to 735 AMS reported a theft of personal property from Bldg. 2105/Par 3 Puka. This case is currently under investigation.

### Theft of unsecured personal property

A military family member of an Active Duty E-6 assigned to 65 AS reported a theft of personal property on Puuloa Circle. This case is currently under investigation.

### Theft of unsecured personal property

A military family member of an Active Duty O-6 assigned to USPA-COM reported a theft of personal property on 4th Street. This case is currently under investigation.

### Damage of government property

An Active Duty O-3 assigned to 15 AW reported damage of government property at Bldg. 1110/ Parking lot. This case is currently under investigation.

### Damage of government property

A civilian assigned to 15 SVS reported damage of government property at Bldg. 3584/Mamala Bay Golf Course. This case is currently under investigation.

### Dependant detained for shoplifting at BX

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of an Airman attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$19.95 without rendering payment. The individual will have AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting a magistrate hearing.

### Dependant detained for shoplifting at BX

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of a Soldier attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$59.98 without rendering payment. The individual will have AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting a magistrate hearing.

### Citations for June 19–25

Two abandoned vehicle notices  
Five civilian traffic citations  
Ten moving traffic citations  
Four non-moving traffic citations



# ROMADs train with Army to become JTACs

by Staff Sgt.  
Carolyn Viss  
15th Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Rain and mud may not have been forecasted for Radio Operators, Maintainers and Drivers’ training in the wilderness, but Airmen geared up anyway to practice combat lifesaver skills, convoys, air-assault egression, and improvised explosive device reaction with one goal in mind: to become combat mission-ready Joint Terminal Attack Controllers.

Tactical Air Control Party members camped at Wheeler Army Air Field’s East Range near Hickam AFB June 23-26 to sharpen proficiencies necessary for upgrade training.

When deployed, these young men who volunteered for the TACP career field are responsible for calling in close air support and providing clearance for air assault to ensure the right targets are reached. Stationed with Army combat units on the ground, they must also be prepared to administer first aid and survive in a hostile environment. As combat Airmen, their jobs incorporate expertise above and beyond what’s normally required of warriors in blue.

“Because they’re training now, they’ll have a better idea of what to expect when



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss

**Staff Sgt. Anthony Stewart, 25th Air Support Operations Squadron electrical engineer, provides small arms fire cover for Senior Airman Robert Gaines, a Tactical Air Control Party member, while he drags Senior Airman Christopher Lee, a “casualty,” to safety.**

they get to Afghanistan with an Army unit,” Staff Sgt. Mike Crabb said of the E-2s to E-4s in attendance. As an experienced JTAC, he was the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of the week’s training. “It’s very realistic. All the Army guys here have deployed several times and know what kinds of scenarios they’ll face in the field.”

After flying in on Army National Guard CH-47 Chinooks, ROMADs navigated their way through wet brush and uneven terrain to

their designated camping area. Armed with M-16s and basic radio and global positioning system equipment, they were “ambushed” along the way by pseudo attackers, setting off pyrotechnics and dodging rocket-propelled grenades courtesy of the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron’s explosive ordnance disposal flight.

“The chaos gives them an idea how they’ll react under pressure,” Sergeant Crabb said.

As one of the more experienced Airmen in the group, Senior Airman Robert Gaines, 25th ASOS TACP, is very close to having all of his combat mission-ready requirements completed for JTAC upgrade.

“Repetition through training allows us to apply what we know rapidly when we’re in a strenuous situation, so doing this on a frequent basis is very useful,” said the 21-year-old Knoxville, Tenn., native.

It’s training like this that ensures safe and reliable wartime readiness and prepared Airman Gaines, who recently returned from a six-month deployment to

Camp Taji, Iraq.

“In this [training] environment, we’re working with actual Army personnel as we would in the field, and using all the operational equipment we use day-to-day downrange,” he said. “It’s good to get out here and get ‘broken in’ in a sense. We’re able to not only use the equipment and communicate but also apply field skills we’ve been taught either in a classroom or shop environment.”

Although learning to communicate between teams, react under pressure, and apply basic job skills was the main goal for the week, 20-year-old Airman Michael Ilizaliturri said being a TACP requires a wholly different level of physical and mental conditioning from any other career field in the Air Force.

“This week, we’re not really carrying much gear, but we’ve done training before where we have to carry everything on a 12-mile ruck march,” he said. Standing at five foot seven and weighing about 145 pounds, he’s “one of the smallest TACPs” and has, at times, almost doubled his weight in gear.

That kind of physical taxation, he said, pushes him to a whole new level of capability.

“It’s all in your head,” Airman Ilizaliturri said. He, like many other TACPs, wanted this specific Air Force Specialty Code because it constantly forces them into physically and mentally challenging situations.

Whether it’s focusing on taking care of someone who’s “bleeding” while taking small arms fire, or forcing himself to keep walking when he runs out of water at mile eight, “I just tell myself I can do it, and I do,” he said.

The trainers agreed 25th ASOS Airmen integrated well with the Army, took the instruction and applied it to the scenarios well, and returned with valuable lessons learned.

According to Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Wehr, 25th Infantry Division Headquarters, Headquarters Company 114th Infantry forward observer, “They did a great job out here, and I have no doubt when they integrate with the Army in the field they’ll be mission capable.”

# OPFOR creates a realistic battlefield of sights and sounds for servicemembers

by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares  
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Under a light mist of rain, a convoy of Humvees trundles along a peaceful muddy Ghanesia jungle road when gunfire erupts around them. From several positions, insurgents attack with small arms fire while blasts rock the airwaves, engulfing people and weapons in a fog of war.

Yellow smoke begins to pour from underneath the lead vehicle. There are several casualties.

This seemingly volatile scene is happening in the mountains of Oahu, the capital island in the Hawaiian chain. It's part of a joint field training exercise, or FTX, to provide realistic sights and sounds training for Tactical Air Control Party and Radio Operators, Maintainer and Driver Airmen preparing to deploy with the Army.

The opposing forces, or OPFOR, in the scene are what make the sights and sounds as realistic as possible. By setting roadside improvised explosive

devices, hiding at ambush points to choke forward progress, the Airmen and Soldiers of OPFOR bring this simulated hostile environment to life. It's their job to help train U.S. servicemembers to prepare for deployments by relying on their experiences to play the part of enemy insurgents.

"The OPFPR players have extensive experience in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Staff Sgt. Mike Crabb, 25th Air Support Operations Squadron Joint Terminal Attack Controller and field training exercise NCO in charge. "Having those guys out here from OPFOR, setting up the IEDs, helps these guys. They are going to make our training as realistic as possible for everyone."

With blank brass flying in all directions, the Airmen in the convoy returns fire, react to the opposing forces attempting to thwart their mission, and care for their wounded while under hostile fire. This four-day FTX is designed to help prepare TACP and ROMAD Airmen for situations they may find themselves in while deployed in an austere environment.

"It makes it very real. The sound an explosion makes is surprising," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ramsey Alquist, a fire support NCO, 25th Infantry Division, Bravo Company, 114th Infantry, Scofield Barracks, Hawaii. "It helps to put pressure on the leaders to make the right decisions."

The concept of OPFOR doesn't just begin and end with attacks throughout the training experience. Passing on the knowledge and wisdom that comes with battlefield experience is another essential part of being an OPFOR member. After the complex series of attacks on the training field, they share what their experiences have been on the battlefield.

"You have to share your experiences," Sergeant Crabb said. "It helps them out in preparing their minds and gets them in perspective for going down range."

In the scenario, the imaginary country of Ghanesia has been a hot spot for terrorist activity, including terrorist training camps for the past two months. After the insurgents complete their training in the area, they are sent to the Middle East. On a patrol, they

encounter insurgent scouts that engage their convoy.

The attack begins with small arms and at least one explosion placed by 15th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal specialists. After the first attack, the groups gather with OPFOR and the other trainers and conduct an after action review.

"If they are new to it, you don't want to hit them with everything you got because it will cause mass confusion," said Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Wehr, a fire support NCO, 25th Infantry Division, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 114th Infantry. "They will not get any training value out of (the exercise)."

During the review, they answer questions about the things they did right, wrong and the areas they could improve on.

"We bring stuff to their attention they are not really seeing because they are in the heat of the moment," he said. "The OPFOR side of it is you have to give these guys a good picture. You can't start shooting at them. You have to give them a picture of what they are going to see when they

go to country."

Then, they reset the battlefield and do it again with a more complex attack with multiple explosions.

Though OPFOR and exercise controllers can't duplicate the environment and the precise elements they will encounter during a deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan — especially in Hawaii — OPFOR works with what they have to train the Airmen. OPFOR players push the envelope to maximize the stress level, forcing trainees to make their mistakes.

"I would rather them make their mistakes here, rather than in combat where people lose their lives," Sergeant Wehr said.

The Airmen of the 25th ASOS live, train and deploy with Army units under dangerous field conditions to coordinate, de-conflict and execute air-to-ground missions within the Army's area of operation. Their chance for survival begins and ends with the Airmen and Soldiers who "shoot" at them during their training exercises — the OPFOR.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

**U.S. Army Spc. Brandon Cox, opposing forces team member, uses the tall grass to creep up on a unsuspecting convoy during a field training exercise at the Army Wheeler Airfield East Range June 24.**

CIVIC LEADERS From A1

professionalism and exacting standards of the men and women who are ... guarding our nation,” said Sami Glascott, president of the Anchorage, Alaska, Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Glascott said the trip provided a great networking opportunity for civic leaders who support the Air Force across the Strategic Triangle.

After testing their flying skills in the C-17, F-15 and E-3 simulators at Elmendorf AFB, the group headed to Eielson AFB for a close-up look at the mission of the 354th Fighter Wing.

“Civic leader support is what allows the 354 FW to accomplish its missions of preparing aviation forces for combat, deploying Airmen in support of global operations and enabling the staging of forces,” said Brig. Gen. Mark Graper, 354 FW commander.

“In particular, thanks to the support of our patriotic Interior Alaska neighbors,” said General Graper.

“We can offer world-class training opportunities to American and Allied forces in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex,” he continued.

The civic leaders interacted with Eielson Airmen at the Yukon club for lunch before touring the civil engineer snow bam, where they saw the massive snow removal equipment and learned about what it takes to ensure mission success during the extreme Alaskan winters.

“Civic leader tours are a great way for us to showcase our capabilities and show our gratitude,” Gen. Graper said.

“The civic leaders from Guam, Hawaii and Alaska now understand the great contributions the Iceman Team makes to our nation’s defense,

and understands that we are ‘Ready to go at 50 below!’” he said.

After departing Eielson AFB, the group embarked on a nine-hour flight across the Pacific to Andersen AFB.

While in flight, the group experienced firsthand the vast capabilities and global reach of the C-17. They were also able to witness an aerial refueling by a KC-135.

“The C-17 is a truly magnificent airplane,” said David Miller, president and chief executive officer of Architects Hawaii Ltd. “A C-17’s interior is almost three stories in height and it can carry over 170,000 pounds. Everywhere one looks there’s a lesson on ‘form follows function.’ The C-17 is by far the most incredible plane I’ve ever flown in and experiencing it was one of the many opportunities this trip gave me.”

While at Andersen AFB, the group got their hands dirty building munitions, working with Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers and firing weapons during combat warrior training. They were also educated on the continuous bomber presence and PACAF’s commitment to maintaining security and stability in the Pacific region.

“These are men and women who are influential leaders in their communities — key links to telling our story to American taxpayers,” said Col. Ed Thomas, PACAF director of Public Affairs.

“They were tired at the end of this trip, but I’m confident they left with a sense of excitement and a depth of understanding of what the Airmen of Pacific Air Forces bring to the nation.”

### Force structure changes to affect 624th staffing

**624th Regional Support Group Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — The Air Force plans to change manpower authorizations and retire some of its older aircraft, according to a fiscal 2010 force structure realignment announced June 25.

The realignment supports the FY10 President’s Budget Request. Unrelated to the FY 10 force structure realignment, the Air Force Reserve’s end strength will grow from 67,400 to 69,500. This increase in manpower authorizations in FY 10 represents approximately 2,100 Airmen for emerging mission areas such as cyber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, unmanned aerial systems and the nuclear enterprise.

For the 624th Regional Support Group at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, the Air Force outlined an increase of five drill positions and four Air Reserve Technician positions for proper support of subordinate units.

The 624 RSG is the largest Air Force Reserve presence in the Pacific, which is comprised of five units in Hawaii and at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The group provides the combatant commander more than 650 combat-ready Airmen who specialize in aerial port, aeromedical staging and civil engineering operations for worldwide employment.

For more details about the FY10 Force Structure realignment visit the Web at <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-090626-085.pdf>.



## 15 OG receives new commander

U.S. Air Force photo by Mark Bates

**Col. Jeffrey W. Morgan gives an incoming address during the 15th Operations Group Change of Command ceremony on Tuesday, June 30, here at Hickam Air Force Base. Colonel Morgan was the Director of Combat Capabilities, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. and is replacing Col. Andrew M. Hockman.**

NEWS NOTES, From A1

**Team Hickam IDEA** Program’s new Web site — See [\\$200 up to \\$10,000](https://ipds.randolph.af.mil/Earn) for “Improving Tomorrow’s Air Force with Today’s IDEA’s.” Call 448-IDEA for more information.

**Warrior Run** — The next Warrior Run is scheduled for July 10. Location is tower side of Bldg. 1110 at the grassy area. Units must be information NLT 7 a.m. Honor Guard/National Anthem will begin at that time. This will be a formation run and Guidons will be allowed. POC is Mater Sgt. Lee Chung 449-4547.

**Hickam Airman’s Attic election** — The organization is looking for applications for the next council board election. The positions of vice-president, secretary, Sgt-at-arms, publicity and Web Page positions will be open. Interested members should submit the following information to Master Sgt. Brigman via e-mail at [Rod.Brigman@us.af.mil](mailto:Rod.Brigman@us.af.mil), or call 449-8701, Rank/Name, Duty Phone, Unit/Address, Position applying, objective, education, experience.

**Airman’s retreat scheduled** — The Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws

Project is sponsoring a free 3-day retreat for active duty Airman ages 18-21 at Kamehame Ridge, July 10-12. The retreat focuses on prevention of underage and high-risk drinking. Contact Kevin Schmidt at 218-9936 or [Kevin.n.schmidt@us.army.mil](mailto:Kevin.n.schmidt@us.army.mil). Limited space available.

**Hickam Play Group holiday break** — A break is scheduled July 2 -10 for the play group for children up to 5 years held at the Hickam Community Housing Community. For further information, contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 449-0300.